

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

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TAGS: PDIP, ET, US, SO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ON HORN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 171

VERBATIM TEXT PRESIDENTS REMARKS JANUARY 12 CONCERNING
HORN FOLLOW:

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, EVERYWHERE YOU TRAVELED EXCEPT POLAND
WE WERE TOLD THAT YOU AND THE LEADERS TALKED ABOUT SOVIET
AND CUBAN PENETRATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, BUT WE ONLY
GOT VERY GENERALIZED AND VAGUE STATEMENTS ON THIS. CAN
YOU ENUNCIATE THE DEPTH OF OUR CONCERN AND WHAT CAN WE
DO ABOUT IT EXCEPT JAWBONE?

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THE PRESIDENT: WE HAVE TAKEN A POSITION CONCERNING AFRICA
THAT WE WOULD USE OUR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE WITH-
OUT SHIPPING ARMS TO THE DISPUTING PARTIES AND WITHOUT
OUR INJECTING OURSELVES INTO DISPUTES THAT COULD BEST BE
RESOLVED BY AFRICANS, BOTH THOSE PARTIES THAT ARE IN
DISPUTE AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. THE SOVIETS
HAVE DONE JUST THE OPPOSITE. THEY, IN EFFECT, CONTRIBUTED

TO THE WAR THAT IS PRESENTLY TAKING PLACE BETWEEN SOMALIA
AND ETHIOPIA.

THEY SOLD EXCESSIVE QUANTITIES OF ARMS AND WEAPONS TO
BOTH SOMALIA AND TO ETHIOPIA. THE WAR BEGAN USING SOVIET
WEAPONS AND NOW THEY ARE SHIPPING LARGE QUANTITIES OF
WEAPONS, SOME MEN, AND THEY ARE ALSO DISPATCHING CUBANS
INTO ETHIOPIA, PERHAPS TO BECOME COMBATANTS THEMSELVES.
WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE SOVIETS IN VERY
STRONG TERMS.

WE HAVE SHARED THE CONCERNS THAT WE FEEL WITH THE LEADERS
THAT I HAVE VISITED, BOTH THE CUMULATIVE GROUP OF
COUNTRIES THAT JOIN WITH US IN THE NATO ALLIANCE, AND
SPECIFICALLY WITH FRANCE, THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES
AND INDIA. WE HAVE HAD UNANIMOUS RESPONSE FROM THEM
SHARING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION'S UNWARRANTED
INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOSS
OF LIFE NOW.

OUR HOPE IS THAT THE SOMALIANS MIGHT CALL PUBLICLY FOR
NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO RESOLVE THE OGADEN
DISPUTE. ONE POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, WOULD BE TO GO TO
THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR TO THE
PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BUT THE BASIC
NEGOTIATION OUGHT TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THOSE TWO NATIONS
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THEMSELVES.

SO I THINK THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO EXPRESS
OUR CONCERN PUBLICLY, TO OFFER OUR GOOD SERVICES IN
SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE, TO
SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND IN THE
UNITED NATIONS TO LET OUR VOICE BE HEARD. BUT I HOPE THAT
WE CAN INDUCE THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS NOT TO SEND
EITHER SOLDIERS OR WEAPONS INTO THAT AREA AND CALL FOR
AND ACHIEVE A RAPID INITIATION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

CHRISTOPHER

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